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BOOK REVIEWS

Dr. Scott Nielsen. *A Season with Eagles*. Stillwater, MN: Voyageur Press. 96 pp., 70 color photographs, index. \$21.95 hardcover.

This is a photographic record, with textual commentary, of a Bald Eagle's nest in Wisconsin, from the arrival of the pair in the spring to the departure of the birds in the fall. Dr. Nielsen gave up dentistry for taxidermy and photography. In pursuit of the latter, he obtained the necessary permissions and built a blind in a tree 220 yards from a known nest, installed a 50-pound telephoto lens, and memorized the climb to the blind (he had to get in and out in the dark). Fortunately, the Eagles elected to use the nest that year, so we have a very interesting photographic and textual record of an Eagle's nest. It should be of particular interest to members of NOU because of this year's hatching of a Bald Eagle in Nebraska—the first hatching in Nebraska in this century, and one of the few on record in all time (Ducey, *Nebraska Birds, Breeding Status and Distribution*).

---R. G. Cortelyou, 5109 Underwood Ave., Omaha, NE
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Jane L. Dorn and Robert D. Dorn. *Wyoming Birds*. Illustrated by Jane L. Dorn. 140 pp. Index, some illustrations and charts. Cheyenne, WY: Mountain West Publishing, [publisher address: PO Box 1471, zip 82003].

Wyoming Birds is the Dorns' guide to finding birds in Wyoming. Using their own observations while doing both plant and bird research since 1960, and researching sighting information from other sources, the book gives distribution and migration data on all species which regularly occur in the state.

The book is divided up into three primary parts, starting with an introduction outlining the Dorns' methods and purposes and including a map of rattlesnake distribution in the state provided for birder safety. The second section, which encompasses the majority of the book, gives information about each species. These accounts are divided up by family with some information given about the typical traits of a family, much in the same way that other guides do. Common and scientific names are given at the top, and a distribution "map," a graphic table which shows a species' status within each latilong is provided (a latilong is an area approximately 70 by 50 miles, partitioned according to longitude and latitude; there are 28 in Wyoming with some authorial adjustments for geopolitical boundaries). Once deciphered using the code in the introduction, this graph can be helpful, though constant reference to the map on the back cover is needed. A brief note on identification in each section is provided, and similar species are also discussed (the Dorns have warned in the first sentence of the book that their guide should be used with a more comprehensively illustrated field guide). The next part of the species breakdown deals with status and seasonality. This section uses the latilong

system, so it does correspond to the graphic illustration above it, and some overall general comments are made. Dates are given for migrants and migration peaks. The habitat of the species is then noted, and a brief section on the best places in Wyoming to find the bird concludes each section. Interspersed within this section are illustrations and charts which provide useful information about identification.

The last section deals with good places to bird in Wyoming. This is divided up in several ways: hotspots for each county (with some good directions and a list of birds to be found provided), hotspots in winter, locations of specific habitat, and several general categories (i.e., waterfowl, shorebirds). This section of the book comprises of only about 10 percent of the book, and given the book's stated purpose, more emphasis on this type of information would have been welcomed.

This book is the initial product of the Dorns' work on birds in Wyoming, and some portions of this fine effort still need refining. On the question of accidental species, the Dorns note that determining what is accidental is "somewhat arbitrary" (3); no further note is given on this argument. Those species which are determined to be accidental are given only cursory acknowledgment: date of sighting and latilong number. For example, the entry for Mississippi Kite states "4(6/11/1987)" (25). Further specific information on where to find out about accidentals is not given in text. The Dorns do make some effort in the introduction and throughout the text to correct mistakes or question ambiguities they have found in identification of rare species. This is certainly a valuable item to have in any guide to an area's bird life. The use of both latilong and county designation used does provide some confusion (I found myself doing a bit of flipping to the map on the back cover), but given their explanation of atlas projects in Wyoming, this is unavoidable. Overall, *Wyoming Birds* does provide thorough details and directions, and the Dorns' work should be appreciated by those interested in Wyoming avifauna.

Note: In an effort to update their text, the Dorns have requested that readers send information about Wyoming birds, especially rare or winter sightings, to them care of the publisher (address above). Careful documentation is requested for those species of less regular occurrence.

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